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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/500,044 | 02/09/2005 | Thorsten Ricking | SCH-00092 | 5198 |
| 30853 | 7590 | 06/13/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| WARN, HOFFMANN, MILLER & LALONE, .P.C | | | LEE, EDMUND H | |
| PO BOX 70098 | | | ART UNIT | |
| ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48307 | | | PAPER NUMBER | |

1732

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/500,044

Applicant(s)

RICKING ET AL.

Examiner

EDMUND H. LEE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/23/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase "said first casting...into the mold" (cl 1, lns 11-14) is indefinite because it is idiomatically incorrect.

Correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 63-31873. JP 63-31873 teaches the claimed process as evidenced by the abstract and figs 1-3.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000-223748. JP 2000-223748 teaches the claimed process as evidenced by the abstract and figs 1-3.

5. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 63-129680. JP 63-129680 teaches the claimed process as evidenced by the abstract and figs 1-3.

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6. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 64-69020. JP 64-69020 teaches the claimed process as evidenced by the abstract and figs 1-7.

7. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 64-69019. JP 64-69019 teaches the claimed process as evidenced by the abstract and figs 1-7.

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 63-129680. The above teachings of JP 63-129680 are incorporated hereinafter. JP 63-129680 does not teach introducing the material through the cross-section of the channel on the mold-bottom side. The exact position of the material inlet is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on mold equipment availability and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, introducing material through the bottom of a mold is well-known in the molding art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to introduce the material of JP 63-129680 through the cross-section of the channel of JP 63-129680 on the mold-bottom side of JP 63-129680 in order to hide any possible flashing.

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10. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 64-69020. The above teachings of JP 64-69020 are incorporated hereinafter. JP 64-69020 does not teach introducing the material through the cross-section of the channel on the mold-bottom side. The exact position of the material inlet is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on mold equipment availability and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, introducing material through the bottom of a mold is well-known in the molding art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to introduce the material of JP 64-69020 through the cross-section of the channel of JP 64-69020 on the mold-bottom side of JP 64-69020 in order to hide any possible flashing.

11. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 64-69019. The above teachings of JP 64-69019 are incorporated hereinafter. JP 64-69019 does not teach introducing the material through the cross-section of the channel on the mold-bottom side. The exact position of the material inlet is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on mold equipment availability and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, introducing material through the bottom of a mold is well-known in the molding art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to introduce the material of JP 64-69019 through the cross-section of the channel of JP 64-69019 on the mold-bottom side of JP 64-69019 in order to hide any possible flashing.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is 571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 9AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on 571.272.1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

EHL


6/7/06